

Transportation & Logistics Career Pathway

MISSOURI ECONOMIC RESEARCH & INFORMATION CENTER
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
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What are Career Pathways?

Career Pathways are groups of occupations within a career field. Occupations within a pathway share common skills, knowledge, and interests. The pathways use industry-recognized credentials and are examples of how different levels of training or education can help provide opportunities for career advancement.

Missouri Numbers:



19,092 Employers



243,810 Workers



\$74,047 Average Wage

Why Have a Career in Transportation?

The Transportation and Logistics industry is the core of strategic supply chain management. Every person and every industry in the world is influenced by, and depends upon, transportation and logistics. Transportation and Logistics represents 9.8 percent of total private sector employment, employing over 243,000 workers in more than 19,000 establishments in 2024. The Transportation and Logistics industry has particularly high concentrations in *Wood Container & Pallet Manufacturing* and *Boiler, Tank, & Shipping Container Manufacturing*. Employment in this industry has been steadily growing, increasing by an average of 1.4 percent per year from 2019 to 2024. Transportation and Logistics wages averaged \$74,047 in 2024, higher than the state average of \$64,752 for private industries.

The Transportation and Logistics industry has many career pathways with opportunities for rewarding careers with good pay and advancement in Procurement & Sales, Transportation, and Warehousing & Distribution.

Know the Basics

Transportation and Logistics careers often involve interactions with customers, so communication skills are important. Durable, or soft, skills, such as interpersonal skills, professionalism, and dependability, are important in all industries and occupations. These jobs can revolve around shifts and critical driving times. Consequently, dependability, along with being flexible when the situation demands it, are valued characteristics.

Skills needed for Success:

The Transportation and Logistics industry has industry-wide technical competencies that represent the knowledge and skills needed to be successful in this industry. Some of the skills needed for success include maintenance and repair knowledge, supply chain logistics, and the ability to adapt and consider new ways of doing things, as well as knowledge and compliance of government regulations.

Who's Hiring in Missouri?

United States Postal Service
United Parcel Service (UPS)
FedEx
First Student
C.R. England



Procurement & Sales

Transportation

Warehousing & Distribution

Now

Short-Term On-the-Job Training

Counter and Rental Clerks
Entry: \$30,160 Average: \$37,930

Driver/Sales Workers
Entry: \$30,320 Average: \$41,980

Customer Service Reps.
Entry: \$35,530 Average: \$45,000

Certificates: Commercial Driver's License (CDL); Business Administration Certificates

Light Truck/Delivery Driver
Entry: \$34,940 Average: \$46,710

**Transportation Attendants,
Except Flight Attendants**
Entry: \$30,300 Average: \$34,160

Certificates: First Aid CPR AED

Industrial Truck & Tractor Operators
Entry: \$39,290 Average: \$47,550

Shipping & Receiving
Entry: \$36,090 Average: \$43,520

Certificates: Commercial Driver's License (CDL); Forklift Operator; Hazardous Materials

Next

Certificate, Associate Degree, Apprenticeship, Moderate- to Long-Term On-the-Job Training

**Sales Reps, Wholesale &
Manufacturing**
Entry: \$45,770 Average: \$74,740

Procurement Clerk
Entry: \$37,640 Average: \$47,150

Degrees: Business Administration and Management

**Transportation, Storage &
Distribution Managers**
Entry: \$68,640 Average: \$105,680

Heavy Truck Drivers
Entry: \$43,490 Average: \$54,480

Degrees: Logistics; Materials; and Supply Chain Management
Certificates: Commercial Driver's License (CDL); Forklift Operator

**Transportation, Storage &
Distribution Managers**
Entry: \$68,640 Average: \$105,680

**First-Line Supervisor of Transp.
& Material Moving Workers**
Entry: \$47,770 Average: \$63,450

Degrees: Logistics; Materials; and Supply Chain Management
Certificates: Forklift Operator

Later

Bachelor's Degree or Advanced Degree

Sales Managers
Entry: \$71,230 Average: \$122,340

Purchasing Managers
Entry: \$98,550 Average: \$139,660

Degrees: Business Administration and Management
Certificates: Logistics & Supply Chain Management

**Airline Pilots, Copilots, &
Flight Engineers**
Entry: \$106,850 Average: \$166,950

Degrees:
Airline/Commercial/Professional Pilot and Flight Crew

Logisticians
Entry: \$53,290 Average: \$76,850

Degrees: Business Administration and Management
Certificates: Logistics & Supply Chain Management

Sources:

Lightcast™

Employment and Training Administration, Competency Model Clearinghouse

2024 Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Top employers data is based on 2025 online job ads



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